Call for Nominations

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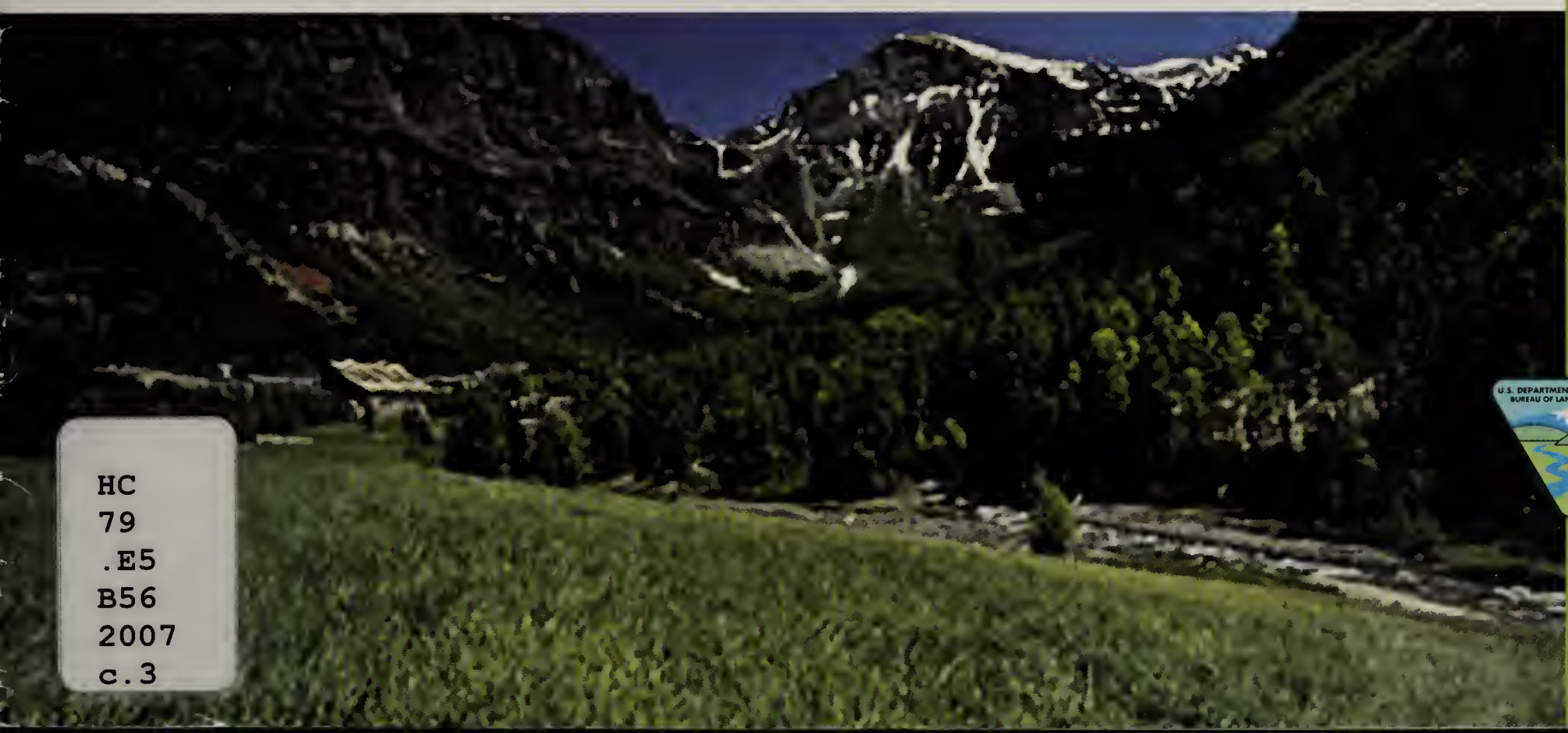
2007 BLM Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program

Nominations due by March 20, 2007



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

BLM

2006 Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award winner - Meridian Gold, Beartrack Mine Project (Idaho)

2006 Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award winner - Coeur Alaska Inc., Kensington Gold Mine (Alaska)

2006 Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award winner - Mike and Lou Busby, Chicken Creek Mine (Alaska)

2006 Hardrock Mineral Director's Award winner - Idarado Mining Company (Colorado)

Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program

The Department of the Interior (DOI) is the nation's principal conservation agency. Its mission is to protect America's treasures for future generations, provide access to the nation's natural and cultural heritage, offer recreation opportunities, honor its trust responsibilities to American Indians and Alaska Natives and its responsibilities to island communities, conduct scientific research, provide wise stewardship of energy and mineral resources, foster sound use of land and water resources, and conserve and protect fish and wildlife. DOI manages 500 million acres of surface land, or about one-fifth of the land in the United States, including 94 million acres managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service, 85 million acres managed by the National Park Service, and 262 million acres managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Much of this land is managed for resource protection, but other lands are managed for multiple-use benefits including mineral development.

The DOI created the Reclamation and Sustainable Mineral Development Awards Program to showcase some of the finest examples of responsible mineral resource development. The DOI, through the Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement (OSM), has presented reclamation awards to coal operators since the initiation of the awards program in 1986. In 2002, the DOI requested that the BLM institute its own annual awards program and that the program be open to non-coal, solid mineral operations nationally without regard to land ownership.

The underpinning of the BLM awards program is sustainable development—development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The four awards categories are: ***The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award***, ***The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award***, ***The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award***, and ***The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award.*** The purpose of the four awards is to recognize work in any of the three components of sustainable development: environmental health, social responsibility, and economic security. Coal operators are not eligible for recognition through this program, but are encouraged to participate in the reclamation awards program managed by the OSM.

The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award

The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award highlights the component of sustainable development that relates to environmental stewardship. This award recognizes achievements demonstrating continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed federal, state, or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight. Outstanding efforts in working with the public, the DOI, or other regulators to further multiple-use objectives in a solid minerals area would qualify candidates for this award. In addition to high-quality reclamation, an operator may have undertaken extraordinary measures to reduce the footprint of the operation on the land, reducing the need for reclamation. When evaluating nominations in this category, judges will consider the extent to which the operator consulted and cooperated with other stakeholders to determine the goals of reclamation and post-mining land use. Recognition with this award may be granted to operators or organizations that provide outstanding examples of any of the following:

- Adopting best practices to minimize environmental degradation and adapting them to local conditions as necessary
- Preventing pollution and minimizing noise and dust during operations
- Handling hazardous materials safely
- Reclaiming the land to prevent erosion and planting native species targeting the same plant communities that existed prior to mining
- Being a leader in developing, establishing, and implementing good environmental practices

BLM Library
Denver Federal Center
Bldg. 50, OC-521
P.O. Box 25047
Denver, CO 80225

2006 award winner - Meridian Gold, Beartrack Mine Project (Idaho)

Active mining at Meridian Gold North Pit - 1998

Reclamation of Meridian Gold North Pit - 2000

Reclamation of Meridian Gold North Pit - 2006

2006 award winner - *(upper and lower photo)*, **Coeur Alaska Inc., Kensington Gold Mine (Alaska)**

The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award

The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award highlights the component of sustainable development that relates to concern shown for community responsibilities and the economic benefits of mineral development. This award recognizes the successful coordination of projects with local and regional stakeholders. Projects that contribute to the quality of life or demonstrate concern for the long-term health of the local community can be recognized in this category. When evaluating nominations in this category, judges will also consider any particularly creative ways operators or organizations incorporated community concerns in their development or closure plans. Particularly notable examples of the following kinds of activities would qualify a nominee for this award:

- Engaging local communities and other affected organizations in an open, honest, and effective process of consultation for the entire project life
- Promoting health and safety both on and off the project site
- Investing in programs that improve the skills and productivity of the workforce
- Developing strategies for sustaining the local economy after mine closure
- Being a progressive and constructive partner in advancing the economic and social infrastructure of the community

2006 award winner - *(upper and lower photo)* **Mike and Lou Busby, Chicken Gold Camp and Outpost (Alaska)**

The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award

The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award recognizes achievements in environmental stewardship of operators with less than 15 employees. Like The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award, this award recognizes operators or organizations who have demonstrated continuous or repeated efforts to successfully meet or exceed federal, state, or local reclamation requirements with minimal oversight. Outstanding efforts to work with the public, the DOI, or other regulators to further multiple-use objectives in a solid minerals area would qualify candidates for this award. In addition to high-quality reclamation, an operator may have undertaken extraordinary measures to reduce the footprint of the operation on the land, reducing the need for reclamation. When evaluating nominations in this category, judges will consider the extent to which the operator consulted and cooperated with other stakeholders to determine the goals of reclamation and post-mining land use. For additional information regarding examples of activities that may merit this award, please see the description for The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award.

The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award

The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award will be awarded to one operator for outstanding achievement in a particular area of sustainable development. This year, the award will recognize an operator whose dedication and commitment to excellence has resulted in the use of a new or innovative design or technique that allows or enhances successful operations in technically challenging conditions or in critical environmental settings. The nomination should include specific information about the innovative design or technique as well as reasons why the award is merited.

BLM Director Kathleen Clarke

Who is eligible for an award?

Operators or organizations in the solid mineral industries (non-coal) can be nominated for ***The Hardrock Mineral Environmental Award, The Hardrock Mineral Community Outreach and Economic Security Award, The Hardrock Mineral Small Operator Award, or The Hardrock Mineral Director's Award.*** Solid mineral development includes mining for a wide variety of commodities including precious metals, base metals, industrial minerals, and construction materials. Nominees must clearly demonstrate a commitment to excellence. Please note that nominations need not be limited to operations on land managed by the BLM, even though BLM is providing administrative support for this award to the DOI. In furtherance of the BLM/USDA Forest Service "Service First" initiative, operators or organizations conducting activities on lands administered by the Forest Service are encouraged to apply, as are those operating on private lands.

2006 award winner - Idarado Mining Company, Reclamation of Telluride tailings before and after reclamation (Colorado)

How do I nominate an operator or organization for an award?

Nominations are the beginning of the selection process. Mining companies, regulatory authorities, nearby landowners, and members of the general public may nominate operators or organizations for these awards. Company officials and employees may nominate their own operations for recognition.

Nominations must contain all of the information listed in the "Required Information" section of this announcement and indicate the award category for the nomination. Nominations should be sent to the BLM State Office (**Attention: Solid Minerals**) with jurisdiction for public lands in the state where the operation is located. Nominations must be received by the appropriate BLM State Office by **March 20, 2007**. State Offices are listed at the end of the brochure.

Required Information

Each nomination should include the following:

Cover sheet containing:

- Company, organization, or person submitting nomination
- Name and location of the nominated operation or organization
- Award category
- Name, address, phone number, and e-mail address (if available) of a contact person in the company or organization and of the person submitting the nomination, if different

Narrative description including:

- Brief history and background of the mining practice, reclamation, or community activity nominated for the award
- Description of the specific activity or practice, including specifics on problems, solutions, benefits, and unusual circumstances
- Effectiveness of the work, quantified where possible
- Transferability of the work or value of the accomplishments to other mining or mineral management operations
- Long-term benefits to the land owner, neighboring properties, and the community
- Statement summarizing why the award is deserved

Photographs:

Photographs should be included if they help to document the success of the nominated activity. Not all nominated activities can be photographed, but pictures should be included when available. Photographs should be 8 by 10 inches or smaller and include a description explaining what is illustrated and a date.

Format:

Please submit seven (7) copies of the nomination on 8½ by 11 inch paper. A copy of the nomination will be provided to each judge. There is no limit on the number of photographs you can include.

Supporting documentation, such as letters of recognition from regulators or community officials, is not required but may be submitted with the nomination. In addition, videos or DVDs highlighting the success of the nominated activity may also be submitted.

Selection of Award Winners

Each BLM State Office will review the nominations submitted to that office, verify the information contained in the nomination, and that the operation or program complies with applicable regulations. All nominations will be accompanied by a Statement of Findings, prepared by the BLM State Office, and will be forwarded to the BLM Headquarters Office for referral to a panel of judges.

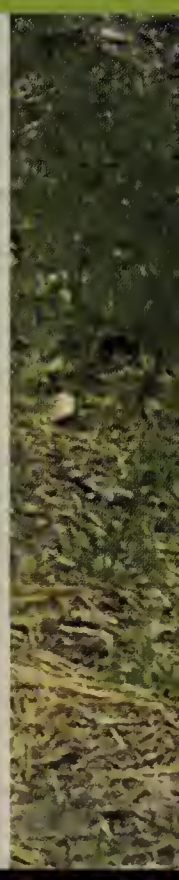
The panel of judges will consist of mining experts and may be state or federal employees, employees of academic institutions, or members of the public. Each judge will rate each application based on the following criteria:

Criteria	Maximum Points
Clarity and thoroughness of the nomination	10
Effectiveness of the project or program	25
Transferability of the technique, practice, or program	20
Difficulty presented by the problem addressed by the project or program	20
Extent to which the project or program exceeds regulatory requirements or public expectations	25

The judges' scores are tallied and the finalists are selected. Judges will be encouraged to use their personal experience to guide them when evaluating the unique aspects of each application. There may be situations where the criteria do not adequately capture all of these unique characteristics; judges may then modify the criteria by consensus if there is a need to do so. Award winners will then be selected from the list of finalists. Judges determine the number of finalists that are selected. There is no minimum or maximum number of awards that may be granted in any 1 year. There may not be a winner in all of the categories each year.

Important Dates

Nominations for the 2007 awards program are due to BLM State Offices by March 20, 2007. BLM State Offices will complete their review and forward nominations to BLM headquarters by April 20, 2007. The awards event will be held in the Fall of 2007.



BLM State Office Mailing Addresses and Areas of Jurisdiction

BLM Alaska State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage. AK 99513-7599
907-271-5960
Jurisdiction: Alaska

BLM Arizona State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
One North Central Avenue
Suite 800
Phoenix, AZ 85004
602-417-9200
Jurisdiction: Arizona

BLM California State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
2800 Cottage Way,
Room W1834
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-978-4400
Jurisdiction: California

BLM Colorado State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215
303-239-3600
Jurisdiction: Colorado

BLM Eastern States State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
7450 Boston Boulevard
Springfield, VA 22153
703-440-1600
Jurisdiction: Subsurface Federal Lands in Alabama, Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin

BLM Idaho State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
1387 South Vinnell Way
Boise, ID 83709
208-373-3889
Jurisdiction: Idaho

BLM Montana State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
5001 Southgate Drive
Billings, MT 59101
(P.O. Box 36800,
Billings, MT 59107-6800)
406-896-5004
Jurisdiction: Montana, North Dakota, and South Dakota

BLM Nevada State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
1340 Financial Boulevard
Reno, NV 89502
(P.O. Box 12000, Reno, NV 89520-0006)
775-861-6400
Jurisdiction: Nevada

BLM New Mexico State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
1474 Rodeo Road
Santa Fe, NM 87505-0115
(P.O. Box 27115,
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115)
505-438-7471
Jurisdiction: Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas

BLM Oregon State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
333 SW 1st Avenue
Portland, OR 97204
(P.O. Box 2965,
Portland, OR 97208)
503-808-6001
Jurisdiction: Oregon and Washington

BLM Utah State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
440 West 200 South,
Suite 500
Salt Lake City, UT 84101
(P.O. Box 45155,
Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155)
801-539-4001
Jurisdiction: Utah

BLM Wyoming State Office

Attn: Solid Minerals
5353 Yellowstone Road
Cheyenne, WY 82003
(PO. Box 1828,
Cheyenne, WY 82007)
307-775-6256
Jurisdiction: Wyoming and Nebraska

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